

WASHINGTON, March 21.

The Public Lands—what will be done with them seems now to be a question of great importance. Since the French question has been well nigh extinguished, this question has come before the Senate with all the interests which its importance demands. Already has it assumed a political appearance. Already have the dominant party arraigned themselves against its discussion. Already have they, in the spirit of power which grasps both at the purse and the sword, sent forth their edicts against the distribution of the public lands in the old states. Already have they commanded the pensioned presses in the old states to raise their voice like a trumpet against distribution—against the danger of having our national treasury filled with twelve, twenty, or even thirty millions of dollars. Already have the party universal in the Senate voted against bringing the subject up for discussion. Already has Benton, in behalf of the Van Buren party in the Senate, sworn an enmity against the bill, which, he says, at now having the power, they will use it to the uttermost, and defeat the bill positively, and the discussion is possible.

And why—your readers may ask, if they have not already put the question to themselves—why are the party so solicitous to check discussion? Why, with a miser's grasp, do they wish to keep the Treasury under their control? Why are the Senators from the old states opposed to the bill, when it is to be of such immense importance to their constituents?

I answer that they are determined to check discussion upon this question, as they have done upon all others of a national character, involving party interests—because discussion enlightens the people, and places the naked truths of patriotism before them in such a light that they may be seen by all. It unravels the Gordian knot of party intrigue, and opens the sources of office-holding corruption. It convinces a large class of men who have established themselves in the doctrines of the power party, that they are wrong; and moreover, that they have been attached to men instead of principles. Being honest men, they will not pin their faith to the sleeves of any man, or attach themselves to the principles of any man—when they do it at the greater expense of sacrificing their own principles. Spread the unvarnished truth before them. Open to them the Treasury of our country—narrate the expenses of our government—convince them of the amount of the surplus revenue, and the dangers of having so much money in the hands of any party, however honorable that party may be. Spread out, also, the natural and the actual temptation before the people. Let all this, and much more of a like character be done, and no man need fear that this unnatural administration, and its natural offspring of crooked men and crooked things would longer blind the people to their true interests. All history, if full and free discussion were allowed, would spread before them, in a manner not to be misunderstood, the danger of having too much power in the hands of one man—especially when that power extended to the control of the Treasury. Discussion would remind them of the fiscal corruptions of Rome when the poorer sort of plebeians used to sell their votes to the public officers, until Julius Caesar deprived them of the right of electing their own magistrates. It would remind them of the days of yore, when Cassius, Longinus, and Seneca lost their lives, and caused a conspiracy, even because they were in the possession of wealth belonging to the state. History is full of examples of the danger of having the national treasury too full. In a republic where elections are annual, or where they occur so frequently as in our own country, the danger is four fold compared with the monarchies of the world, in her earliest or latest days. There men become supine, weary, tired of opposition. They sink down into a forgetfulness of their wrongs, and become contented under oppression. All excitement is dead, because all motive to action is extinct. Here we have periodical elections, which bring a periodical fever with them. Men are dependent upon the people to be kept in power. A good part of their administrations is spent therefore, in corrupting a class of persons, (low minded citizens,) mostly foreigners, who are willing to sell their votes to the highest bidder. The political elements, therefore, are kept constantly in commotion.

Here, then, lies the secret of the danger.—The party in power have the purse-strings.—The treasury is full and overflowing. They are opposed to emptying the treasury for national purposes, because they want the money for party purposes. They are solicitous of keeping the people ignorant of the full amount of the surplus revenue, because the people would not rest contented when informed of the fact. The Presidential election is at hand—parties are organizing—money is wanted, and Uncle Sam is to be the treasurer.

These are facts which must be evident to every mind that looks to our national concerns with a desire to see things as they are. Will the people of the old states submit to have their interests thus bartered away? Will they let the treasury lay open, to be drawn from by politicians for political purposes? Will they silently permit their Senators to vote against Mr. Clay's Land Bill, when the passage of that Bill will do so much for the internal improvements—for the public schools—for a thousand important institutions of usefulness and benevolence? Will the citizens of the "Old Thirteen" be submissive spectators, when their own money is thus robbed from them? Will not the new states, even, consent to a just distribution of the national wealth?

Let the people of the whole country examine this important question, which is now agitating the public mind, and answer for themselves. To the American people—the sons of the pilgrims—the survivors of the Revolution—the native born Americans, we look for an answer. Come ye to the rescue! Let not your own blessings prove your bitterest curse!

From the Journal of Commerce.

ORIGIN OF THE FLORIDA DIFFICULTIES.—In the year 1823, a treaty was made with the Seminoles at Moultrie Creek, in Florida, by which they stipulated to come under the protection of the United States, to give up their possessions, and remove to certain restricted boundaries in the territory—the extreme point of which was not to be nearer than fifteen miles to the sea coast of the Gulf of Mexico.

For any losses to which they might be subjected by their removal, the Government agreed to make liberal donations, also to provide implements of husbandry, schools, &c. and pay an annuity of \$5000 for 20 successive years; besides which, there were presents of corn, meat, &c. &c. It was required of the Indians that they should prevent absconding slaves from taking refuge among them, and they were to use all proper exertions to apprehend and deliver the same to their proper owners.

At this period the greatest harmony seemed to prevail, and the Chiefs seemed friendly. Nay, so far did they carry this feeling at the time we speak of, that they had a clause extorted from them in the Treaty, by which the United States Agent, Major Gad Humphreys, and the Interpreter Richards, were to have each one mile square in fee simple, as a mark of the confidence they reposed in these officers of the government.

In process of time, the fertility of the soil of part of Florida, and its mild and genial climate, became sources of general attraction to settlers, who flocked in by thousands with their slaves. Thus were the Indians again intruded on, and they were discovered to be troublesome neighbors, and unfitted alike by their habits and pursuits for a near residence to civilized life.

Ardent spirits, that bane of morals, had been introduced among them by avaricious and unprincipled men, who after stripping them of their means, would abuse them, when nothing farther was to be obtained. In this case their natural desire for liquor would induce them in turn to prey upon the more respectable part of the community, who could not help complaining of their depredations. Besides, it was found they were not careful in observing the Treaty in relation to absconding slaves, and the Chiefs were continually harassed by the most embarrassing complaints against their people on that account. Under this state of things, the government thought it would be advisable, if possible, to induce them to remove West of the Mississippi. Accordingly, another treaty was entered into with the Seminoles in the spring of 1832, on the Ocklawaha River, known by the name of the Treaty of Payne's Landing, by which they stipulated to relinquish all their possessions in Florida, and emigrate to the country allotted the Creeks west of the Mississippi—in consideration of which the government was to pay \$15,400 on their arrival at their new home, and give to each of the warriors, women and children, one blanket, and one homespun frock. The whole removal was stipulated to take place within three years after the ratification. From some cause much delay ensued on the part of the government, and some of the Indians were decidedly adverse to leaving those lands where "their navel strings were first cut and the blood had flowed on the ground!" The unprincipled white men, (traders, who drove a lucrative business among these people,) were endeavoring to influence them not to abide by the treaty, stating to them they had been wronged by the government and forced to make a treaty adverse to their interests.—All this time the breach among the Indians and whites was constantly widening.

In the fall of 1834, General Wiley Thompson, the Government Agent, (from whom the most interesting of these particulars were derived,) held a council with the Chiefs at Fort King, the present seat of war, wherein he explained to them the necessity of removal for their own safety and that of their property, and he required distinct answers to certain propositions which he presented. The Indians retired to private council to discuss the subject, when the present young and daring chief Osceola (Powell) addressed the council in an animated strain against emigration, and said that any one who should dare to recommend it should be looked upon as an enemy, and held responsible to the Nation. There was something in his manner so impressive and bold, that it alarmed the timid of the Council—and it was agreed in private talk, that the treaty should be resisted. When this was made known to the Agent, he made them a long and eloquent harangue, setting forth the dangers that surround them if they were subjected to the laws of the pale faces, where a red man's word would not be taken; that the whites might make false charges against them and deprive them of their negroes, horses, land, &c. All this time Osceola was sitting by, begging the chiefs to remain firm.

Holatee-Mico said the Great Spirit made them all; he had come from one woman, and he hoped they would not quarrel, but talk until they got through.

Micanopee, the king of the nation, said he did not intend to remove. Powell then told the Agent "he had the decision of the Chiefs," and the Council was broken up.

In the private talk, an old chief said he had heard much of his great Father's regard for his red children—it had come upon his ears, but had gone through them. He wanted to see it with his eyes—that he took land from other red skins to pay them for their, and by and by, he would take that. The white skins had forked tongues, and hawk's fingers—that David Blount told him the people in the great city made an Indian out of paint, and then sent after him and took his land (alluding to the likeness of the Chief at the Indian Department.) He wanted to sleep in the same land with his fathers, and wished his children to sleep by his side.

General Thompson, the Agent, was very friendly to the Indians, and no man endeavored more zealously to carry into full effect the policy of the present humane Commissioner of Indian Affairs with regard to the total exclusion of strong drink among them, and the expulsion of unprincipled whites. As Osceola had given him much trouble, and was in a great measure the cause of the treaty not being carried into effect, he put some insolence of language, had him put in chains at Fort King. This rankled in Powell's bosom; although he had given the Agent tokens of reconciliation, yet he made him pay the forfeit of his life in a few months afterwards.

Micanopee, the ruling chief, or king, is a thick headed, short, disagreeable looking Indian, and much given to intoxication. Powell is young, resolute and daring, fond of war, known to many of our officers at the forts in Florida, where he used occasionally to drill and try to learn the artillery exercise. Another prominent character in the corps, is Jumper the actor, or sense-keeper, who acts as a kind of privy councillor to Micanopee. He is remarkably shrewd, and wily to the last degree. The others are Abraham and Cudjoi,

negroes belonging to the Seminoles, and held in high esteem by them. They have occasionally acted as interpreters in the talks with our people.

From the Jacksonville Courier, March 17.

Gen. Gaines and Osceola had an interview.—The news from the camp of Gen. Gaines continues to be of great importance. In our last, we stated that Gen. Clinch, with the Alachua militia, had joined him. We were then unable to state correctly the particulars. The following extract of a letter to the editor, will show the force which accompanied the provisions.

The force which went to the relief of Gen. Gaines under the command of Gen. Clinch, consisted of four companies of mounted volunteers from Alachua county, commanded by Captains Williams, Carter, Horn, and Lieut. Dell, one company from Hamilton county, under Capt. Martin, the Richmond Blues, about seventy friendly Indians, and some regulars, in all about seven hundred men. Verbal report states that the Indians are getting short of food.

With this force Gen. Clinch went to the relief of Gen. Gaines. The night before his arrival, Osceola sent a negro to the camp of Gen. Gaines, requesting an interview, and promising to stop killing white men if he would stop killing Indians. This proposition was agreed to, and Osceola was told to come next day with a white flag, and they would have a talk with him. The next day, in company with another chief, he came to within about one hundred yards of the Fort, waived his white flag around three times, and sat down upon a log. Three officers from the Camp went to meet them.

Osceola informed them that Gen. Clinch was on his way to join them with a large number of horsemen. He expressed his willingness that hostilities cease, and to give up his arms. The officers required him to sign articles of agreement by which he bound himself to proceed immediately to Tampa Bay, and there embark for the Mississippi. Some say that Osceola objected to this mode of removing, and wished to go by land. Others that he would not go at all, but wished to live the other side the Wythlacochee and to have that for the boundary line between them and the whites. Their discussion was interrupted by the arrival of Gen. Clinch. During the course of it, Osceola inquired how they were off for provisions. They told him they had a plenty. He said, he knew they had not, and if they would come over the river, he would give them too beavers and a bottle of brandy.

As Gen. Clinch approached the friendly Indians, discovering the hostile Indians about three hundred yards from the Camp of Gen. Gaines, raised the whoop, which was immediately followed by one from the hostile Indians. The men immediately formed and fired a platoon. The Indians fled and were closely pursued. A runner then came from Gen. Gaines ordering them to stop and informing them that Osceola was treating with them. At first those in pursuit could not be restrained; but the cry of "Treaty," "Treaty," soon checked them. Gen. Clinch then formed and proceeded to Camp.

The following extract of a letter written after their arrival, contains some interesting particulars:—

HEAD QUARTERS, CAMP IZARD, FLOR.
On the Wythlacochee, March 8, night.
"We arrived at this post on the evening of the 6th, and found Gen. Gaines' army in a state of starvation, eating horses, dogs, &c.—less than a gill of corn was issued for a day's rations. We brought but a small quantity of provisions with us, and I believe there are but few men in camp who are not hungry at this time. We found plenty of fresh Indian signs two miles above this on the river, and some of us wanted to pursue it, but the Gen. directed otherwise. When we came in sight of the Camp, the spy guard reported Indians (500) in battle array. The war whoop commenced, and all who heard it, expected, and I believe, were prepared, ready, and willing for it. I was at the head of Capt. Martin and Carter's companies, the left flank, when we discovered a considerable body of Indians on our left. We closed up a little, faced to the left and gave them a fire, two only returned it, (and one of their balls struck near me,) they instantly fled into the hammock; it is said we killed one and wounded two; to-day the spot has been visited, and a considerable quantity of hides, some rice, &c. &c. was found, so I guess they left in a hurry. They have had Gen. Gaines completely surrounded for several days previous to our arrival; they had fought him all the day before without much execution on either side.

Hearing the attack of Gen. Clinch, the officers in conversation with Osceola advised him to retire into the hammock, while they went to the camp.

On reaching the camp, Gen. Clinch found its inmates in great distress. They were literally in a state of starvation. They had killed and eaten several horses and dogs. One soldier having stolen a dog and killed it, sold one of the quarters for five dollars. For this act of stealing, killing, or selling, or all together, he received a severe flogging. One man gave six dollars for a piece of horse's entrails about a foot long. Five dollars were given for a biscuit, and the same for a quart of corn. We forbore to mention many other acts, showing what hunger will compel one to do, which are related of these patriotic men, thus surrounded and suffering in a savage wilderness. Yet there was perfect subordination, and every man was prompt in the discharge of his duty. The Alachua volunteers cheerfully distributed their biscuits and corn, reserving none for themselves. It was affecting to witness the greediness and thankfulness with which they received a whole or a half of a biscuit from their deliverers.

The evening of the day on which their interview was interrupted by the arrival of Gen. Clinch, Osceola sent word to Gen. Gaines that if he would send away the horsemen (Alabama militia,) they would come and surrender their arms. We know not whether from suspicion or otherwise, the horsemen were not sent away. After waiting three days to hear more of Osceola, and not having provisions to remain any longer, Gen. Gaines returned to Fort Drane, at which place Osceola was to have met him. Monday or Tuesday last, after reaching this Fort he transferred the command to Gen. Clinch, and left for New Orleans by the way of Tallahassee. During some of the engagements, he received a wound; the ball, passing through his hip,

knocked out two of his teeth; but its force being nearly spent, it did him no farther injury.

This movement of Osceola in requesting an interview, when Gen. Gaines had been entirely surrounded by his followers for several days, is inexplicable, and seems to have taken all by surprise. Whether it was an artifice devised on hearing of the approach of a reinforcement, to give time to make a safe retreat; or a stratagem to which, after introducing five hundred Indians within the breast-work under the pretence of surrendering their arms, he intended to make an attack with his main force, and, taking advantage of the confusion, to massacre the whole before General Clinch could render them any assistance; or, as he says, he is really tired of murdering white men, Gen. Clinch's arrival sooner than it was anticipated prevents us from determining, and time alone can now decide.

Though Osceola has courage and cunning to plan and execute most any bloody movement, we sincerely hope he has seen the hopelessness and folly of further resistance, and the Indians will now surrender their arms, and prepare to abide by the stipulations of the treaty for their removal. Should this be the case Gen. Gaines will receive a Nation's thanks and a valiant General's fame.

To the manner in which he has conducted his part of the campaign, much credit is due. His alacrity in bringing to the theatre of action so large a force, his march from Tampa Bay and the burial of the unfortunate Major Dade and his companions, entitle him to gratitude of the citizens of Florida, at whose cry of distress he so promptly came, and of the afflicted relatives and friends of the unfortunate men, whose bodies were strewn over the plain, and upon which the vultures were battling.

From the Savannah Georgian, March 24.

VERY IMPORTANT INTELLIGENCE FROM FLORIDA.

The steam packet Florida, Capt. Hebbard, arrived last evening from Black Creek via Jacksonville.

Col. Twigg, of the 4th Regiment Infantry, Major Mountfort, of the 2d Regiment Artillery, and Major Lear, of the 4th Infantry, with Captain Marks of the Louisiana volunteers, were among the passengers. These officers left Fort Drane on Saturday last, where Gen. Scott remained with the forces under his command. The whole Army is in fine health and spirits, and in excellent discipline, and will be prepared to leave Fort Drane on or about the 25th inst. for the banks of the Outhlacochee, (General Gaines' battle ground.) There Generals Scott, and Eustis, and Col. Lindsay, with their immediate commands, are to unite—Gen. Eustis having moved on Saturday last from Volusia, and Col. Lindsay being on his way from Tampa.

If the Indians do not comply with the terms of the Treaty, it is Gen. Scott's intention to make them do so, peacefully if they will, or forcibly, if necessary.

The Floridians, not in the field, are generally returning to their homes in the vicinity of Micanopy and elsewhere, expecting, as they have been assured, that the Indians will comply with their agreement with Gen. Gaines.

Gen. Gaines set out from Fort Drane on the 14th inst. on his way to Tampa, via Tallahassee and St. Marks.

Gen. Scott arrived at Fort Drane on the day before.

The agreement made by Gen. Gaines with the Indians, with the terms of which we are furnished by Capt. Marks, is to the following effect:—that the Indians and their chiefs should retire beyond the Wythlacochee, and there remain peacefully until the wishes of the Government are known—that commissioners would be sent them by the proper authorities to express those wishes, and that the chiefs should assemble at any time and place, when and where they should be required.

Osceola, Jumper, Alberti Hajo (Crazy Alligator) all Indians, with Abram (Principal Adviser of Micanopy) and Caesar, both Indian Negroes, were present at the interview on the part of the Indians; and the officers who, at the request of Gen. Gaines, were present, were Capt. Hitchcock, of 1st Regiment Infantry, Capt. Marks, of the Louisiana Volunteers, and Adjutant Barrow, of the same.

We understand that in consequence of some misunderstanding between Col. Twigg and the Commanding General, respecting Brevet rank in the field, Col. Twigg will forthwith repair to New-Orleans and resume his duties as Commandant of that station. Maj. Mountfort is also on his way to New-Orleans, and Major Lear has received a furlough for the recovery of his health.

We sincerely regret that the army should be deprived at this time of such gallant and experienced officers, who showed by their endurance of privations on their march from Tampa, and the alacrity with which they repaired to the field of danger, what the country could reasonably expect from them in action—if an action with the enemy should indeed be necessary.

The general impression when these officers left Fort Drane was that the war was at an end. No hostile Indians have been seen by our Army since Gen. Gaines left the Outhlacochee. Most of the friendly Indians, with Black Dirt, their chief, have returned to Tampa, deeming their services no longer necessary. We regret to add that Lieut. Izard survived his wound only a few days.

Another Steamboat Burnt.—The steam boat Randolph, one of the finest boats on the western waters, was destroyed by fire, together with a very valuable cargo of merchandise, on the afternoon of the 16th inst., when within a short distance of Nashville, on her passage from New-Orleans. We learn from the Union that she was discovered to be on fire, when first descried from the city, and that she continued to run about half a mile after the fire was visible, in order, as was supposed, to afford those on board a better opportunity of landing safe. When the boat reached the landing, she was enveloped in flame; and notwithstanding every exertion on the part of the citizens and fire companies, the fire could not be extinguished, but ran its course. Two lives were lost, both of those colored persons, in attempting to escape from the burning mass; one being drowned, and the other died in consequence of an injury received. This splendid boat belonged to the Messrs. Yeatman, of Nashville, and was insured in that city to the amount of \$17,500. The cargo was very valuable, and nearly the whole of it was lost. What part of this may have been covered by insurance, was not known.—The total loss, including boat and cargo, is estimated at \$300,000.

TEN DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

New-York, April 1.

The packet ship Roscoe, Captain Delano, arrived last evening, having sailed from Liverpool on the 26th February.

The news is of unusual interest. The new French Ministry is at length re-constructed—M. Thiers is the President of the Council and Minister of Foreign Affairs, in the place of the Duc de Broglie.

The foreign news given in the Paris papers refer solely to the affairs of Spain, which promise to assume a very interesting aspect very shortly. All the private accounts received from that country in the French capital was of a character the most unfavorable for the Queen. The question of intervention was again under consideration by the French Government.

The tidings of the arrival of the British sloop of war Pantaloon at Norfolk, and the probable acceptance of the Mediation by this Government, had reached England.

FRANCE.

The French Ministry is at length re-constructed. The *Moniteur* of Monday, in its official portion, publishes the following appointments:—

M. Thiers to the Presidency of the Council, and Minister for Foreign Affairs, in the room of Duc de Broglie.

M. Sauzet, Minister of Justice, vice M. Persil.

Count Montalivet, Minister of the Interior, vice M. Thiers.

M. Passy, Minister of Commerce, vice M. Duchalet.

M. Pelet de La Lozere, Minister of Public Instruction, in the room of M. Guizot.

From this announcement it would appear, that M. D'Argout retains the Ministry of France, Marshal Maison that of War, & Admiral Dupere of Marine, and that of M. Martin (du Nord) remains Attorney General.—That this modification is, as far as it goes, for the better is obvious, but we shall not be surprised if it be carried further.

Execution of Fieschi and his accomplices.

On Monday evening, as was expected, the Court of Peers condemned Fieschi, Morey, and Pepin to death. Bureaux to twenty years' imprisonment with hard labor, but acquitted the remaining prisoner, Bocher, who during the same night was discharged. The effect of the sentence upon the prisoners was various. Fieschi appears to have been thunder-struck at first, became frantic, but afterwards recovered his self-possession, and was described even as cheerful. Morey, the old man, received the communication of his doom with resignation; but all the feebleness of Pepin's character was made manifest when it came to his turn to learn his lot.

On Friday morning, at ten minutes past 8 o'clock, the awful sentence of the law was carried into effect upon Fieschi and his accomplices.

Pepin was the first to descend from his vehicle. He mounted the scaffold with a firm step, and exhibited in his entire deportment a degree of calmness and resignation that formed a strong contrast with the weakness and irresolution displayed by him during his trial. On reaching the fatal platform, he bowed to the assembled multitude, resigned himself into the hands of the executioner, and in another moment ceased to exist.

The appearance of the next prisoner (Morey) who ascended the scaffold excited an intensely painful feeling among the populace. In consequence of his extreme debility, he was actually lifted on the scaffold by the executioner and his assistants, by whom he was strapped to the fatal board. The knife then descended, and almost before the countless and breathless multitude could perceive the signal given for its fall, the wretched criminal was a headless corpse.

Fieschi, though he saw the axe raised, colored with the blood of his accomplices, never showed the slightest emotion of fear or horror, but continued to converse with those around him till the executioner laid his hand upon his shoulder as indicating that the fatal moment had arrived. He mounted the steps with extraordinary rapidity, and placing himself in the attitude of an orator, pronounced the following words, with a clear and firm voice: "I am about to appear before my God. I have told the truth. I die content. I have rendered a service to my country by pointing out my accomplices. I have told the truth and no falsehood, as I call upon Heaven to witness. I am happy and satisfied. I demand pardon of God and man; but above all, of God. I regret my victims more than my own life." Upon this he turned quickly around and delivered himself into the hands of his executioner.

MOBILE, March 14.

Awful Disaster.—The boilers of the steaming boat Franklin, as she was leaving this port for Montgomery, yesterday morning, burst, producing a concussion that shook the whole city. The boat had just backed out from the wharf into the stream, and having turned her bow upwards, the engine had been stopped in order to give the machinery a forward motion, when the dreadful accident occurred. Almost upon the instant the whole city rushed to the wharves to gaze upon the scene of horror and destruction. This boat has been run as a packet, for the conveyance of passengers exclusively, between this city and Montgomery, the whole season thus far, and of course it was natural that a vast deal of interest should be felt for the lives and safety of those on board. The spectacle was truly affecting. The boat was forty or fifty yards out in the stream—the whole of the boiler cracked, the boilers and chimneys were gone, and over the surface of the water were strewn the fragments of the boat, boxes, barrels, and even human beings. One individual, Mr. Isaac Williams, of Wilcox county, near Portland, was blown up full one hundred feet and fell in the dock near the shore full one hundred and fifty yards from the boat. Speedy measures were resorted to for picking up each of the officers, hands and passengers of the boat as could be rescued before they sunk. No person on board that was in the cabin, or on the hurricane deck, was injured in the least, as we have learned, though the number of passengers was quite large. It is a matter of utter impossibility to ascertain the number of persons killed and missing, as the boat was just leaving, and probably one half or more of the persons on board had not registered their names. The number has been variously estimated from 10 to 20.—The boat was understood to be injured so much as to preclude the practicability of repair.

MOBILE, March 17.

The steamboat John Watchman, which conveyed the volunteers of this State to Florida, arrived in this port yesterday evening, and bringing intelligence of a skirmish between some volunteers at Tampa Bay and a small party of Indians. Seven Indians were killed. They took from twenty-five to thirty ponies and several hundred spades, hoes and other implements, which the Indians had taken at the massacre of the two companies under Major Dade.

A letter from Washington states that Mr. Hardin, of Kentucky, has been called to account by Col. John, and for assistance to the domestic tale.